(c) and (d) Scheme-wise and year-wise number of projects and funds released/utilised are as below:

Year	NWDPRA		IWDP	
	No. of Watershed Projects	Funds utilised (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of watershed projects	Funds released (Rs. in Lakhs)
2002-03	27	14.34	-	-
2003-04		41.34	2	82.50
2004-05		97.78		-
2005-06		202.55	2	24.10
2006-07		202.07		-
TOTAL:	27	558.69	4	106.60

Meeting on interest subvention scheme

3978. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of Chief Ministers of all the State was called in September, 2006 to discuss the Interest Subvention Scheme announced by Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held: and

(c) the final outcome of these discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A meeting of Chief Ministers of selected States was held on 8th September, 2006 to discuss the modalities of operationalising the interest subvention scheme for providing crop loans to farmers at 7% rate of interest with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakh on the principal amount.

(b) Some of the State Governments pointed out the financial difficulties faced by the Cooperative Banks and requested for providing interest subvention by Government on India on the entire lending amount of the

Cooperative Banks (apart from the refinance support by NABARD), so as to enable availability of crop loans to the farmers at 7%.

(c) The Government has decided to provide interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their lending from their own resources and refinance at concessional rate to Cooperative Banks and RRBs on their borrowings from NABARD. The subvention will continue for year 2007-08 also.

Apple under NAIS

3979. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring apple under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No,Sir. At present, there is no proposal for coverage of apple crop under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Vegetable oil **imports**

3980. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that total vegetable oil imports of our country has been increased by 17 per-cent during the current year and at the same time domestic production has been declined to 4.4 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such decline in the current year's production has paved the way to increase the import of vegetable oils;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any effective measures to increase domestic production and what are the reasons for such sudden decline;